

## Generosity Helps Union University Recover from Disaster

Following the February 2008 tornado destruction on the Union University campus in Jackson, Tennessee, many generously worked to help with recovery efforts. Among those were 31 KDP chapters and numerous KDP members who donating clothing and other necessities, more than \$3,200 in cash, and \$850 in gift cards.

KDP Omega Lambda Chapter, under the direction of the Dean's Office in the School of Education and the chapter counselor and officers, made use of these generous contributions to help replace belongings of students with greatest need. These are stories, as related by Chapter Counselor Nancy A. Cherry, of just a few of the many students that received aid.

- Our student teachers were our first priority. To complete their allotted time in the schools, they had to begin quickly after the storm to find alternative housing and replace the necessities of what were lost.
- A couple engaged to be married in early summer lost most everything they had. The young man had moved back to campus from his apartment to help save some money. His dorm was a complete loss and his fiancée had to replace the majority of her clothing and all school-related items.
- Our students lost clothing, winter coats/shoes, as well as all their bathroom and kitchen items. The gift cards were distributed for them to replace those items needed.
- Two junior undergraduate students had relocated to the hotel that had provided housing and had no flat table surface on which to work and study. They pooled their donations to purchase a small desk to put in their dorm. It now has a happy home in their new dorm on campus. These students commented that the desk is a reminder of the random acts of kindness shown to them following the storm.
- Omega Lambda used the gifts cards to help Kappa Delta Pi chapter members/students replace items lost in the tornado, such as clothing and shoes, books, book bags, school supplies, toiletries, and kitchen supplies.
- The chapter also used the recovery funds to help displaced students with off-campus housing and travel expenses. Funds also helped with repairs and to create additional workspace in the student curriculum lab, where students could complete class projects.
- Despite the disaster, the chapter was able to conduct a spring initiation, also thanks to the help of donated funds.
- Students who were critically injured also were aided by a portion of the generous donations. Their families endured a tremendous amount of out-of-pocket medical expenses, and the donations helped them start off the new semester with needed supplies. We do ask that you continue to remember one student (J. Kaspar) who still suffers from head trauma injuries following the storm and has not returned to campus.

The Omega Lambda Chapter is truly thankful for the many generous acts of kindness shown to the chapter and Union University students-at-large. In the words of University President David Dockery: "I am brought to a new awareness of how fragile life is and how totally, utterly dependent I am—we are—on God and his grace and His providential care each and every day."